Study on causes of road accidents on national highways

3349. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to know the causes of increasing road accidents particularly on the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry has not conducted any study to know the causes of road accidents on National Highways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Upgradation of new stretches as NHs

3350. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to declare any new stretch of the roads of National Highways (NHs);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the funds required for upgradation of the newly identified stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

3351. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made subsequent to the declaration in Parliament for taking up the work of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway;

(b) the phases of the planning and implementation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government had frozen land in 300 m width along the proposed alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway way back in 1991;

(d) if so, by when land acquisition would start; and

(e) whether any time-frame has been decided by his Ministry of starting of construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Subsequent to declaration in Parliament for taking up of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway, proposals were invited from domestic as well as International Consultants for Comprehensive Feasibility Study of the Expressway including fixing of the alignment, planning of facilities, preliminary design and costing,

preparation of bid documents and assistance in bidding. There was no response to the bids despite the proposals being invited twice. Limited enquires were floated from some of the international consultants working in India for the third time.

There was no response. Therefore, it was decided to split the services into smaller segments. In the first step bids have been invited for fixing the expressway alignment and the work is already awarded to a consultant for fixing of alignment. In the subsequent stages feasibility studies will be taken up.

(b) The various phases of planning and implementation are as under:—

(i) Fixing the alignment.

(ii) Feasibility studies and facility planning.

(iii) Preparation of land plan schedules.

(iv) Acquisition of land.

(v) Preparation of bidding documents.

(vi) Appraisal and approval of the project by Government.

(vii) Invitation of bids.

(viii) Award of concession.

(ix) Financial close.

(x) Commencement of Expressway construction.

(xi) Completion of the expressway and start of commercial operation.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, it is expected that the land acquisition process will start sometime in the middle of 2009-10.

(e) The construction work is likely to start by the end of year 2011.

International shipyards in Gujarat

3352. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for setting up two international size shipyards — one each on East Coast and West Coast of India;

(b) whether any Committee was constituted to identify suitable location;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the locations on the west coast;

(d) the action taken by Government on the recommendations; and

(e) the time by when the location for international shipyard for Gujarat is likely to be finalised.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal under the National Maritime Development Programme of Department of Shipping for setting up of two international size shipyards,